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PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-41 have been cancelled.

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-7, 15-17, 21-24, and 27-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,177,421 ("Buer"). Claims 9-13 and 35-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buer in view of M.J.B. Robshaw, "On Recent Result for MD2, MD4, and MD5" ("Robshaw"). Claims 18, 19, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,365,588 ("Bianco"). Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buer in view of Robshaw and Bianco.

In response, claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-41, have been canceled.

Claims 8 and 20 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claims. In response, claims 8 and 20 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims and all intervening claims.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to claims 8 and 20 have been overcome, and that claims 8 and 20 are in condition for allowance. The applicant therefore respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Please charge any necessary fees, including extension fees, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 26, 2009



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